



Summary for August 2015-August 2016

CBA Green Team Annual Report

Educating and involving students and faculty about sustainability and using Mammel Hall efficiently.

In August 2011, the University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Business Administration (CBA) created the CBA Green Team—a group of individuals, CBA faculty, staff, students, and UNO staff seeking to improve the sustainability and environmentally friendly efforts within CBA. Some of its accomplishments for the past academic year (2015-16) include:

- Tracking Recycling and Waste Collection (p. 2)
- Providing “Green” Messages (p. 4-5)
- More efficient Paper Towel Dispensers (p. 6)
- Assisting Stedman’s Café “Going Green” Efforts (p. 6)
- Activities for CBA Earth Week
 - Waste Sort (p. 7-8)
 - Clothing Swap (p. 8)
 - Sustainability Presentation (p. 9)
 - Water Taste Test (p. 9-10)

Members of CBA Green Team

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| • Jean Waters (P2RIC/NBDC) | • Edward Johnson (UNO Facilities) |
| • Rick Yoder (P2RIC/NBDC) | • Chelsea Bailey (CBA Director of Marketing and social media) |
| • Brianne McDonald (P2RIC/NBDC) | • Sarah Burke (UNO Sustainability Coordinator) |
| • Jade Jensen (P2RIC/NBDC) | • Emily Bradley (Student Government) |
| • Annesha Mitra (Advising) | • Jonna Holland (Associate Professor, Management) |
| • Lacey Merica (Advising) | • Heather Holmes (Entrepreneurship, Stedman’s) |
| • Michael O’Hara (Professor, Finance, Banking and Real Estate) | |
| • Shauna Kister (Student/Green BASIS) | |
| • David Nielson (CBA Assistant Dean) | |

CBA Recycling & Waste Collection: (Waste Wise)

As a member of the EPA Waste Wise program, CBA collects and weighs waste and recycling from within Mammel Hall to keep track of all waste reduction efforts. Last summer, in 2015, the CBA Green Team introduced four compost bins in the Mammel Hall atrium (from June 2015 to August 2015). These compost bins were paid for by the Orientation Team from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Within those three months, approximately 2% of the waste collected (not including shredding bins) was compost. The following information indicates that waste consists of much more than 2% of compost.

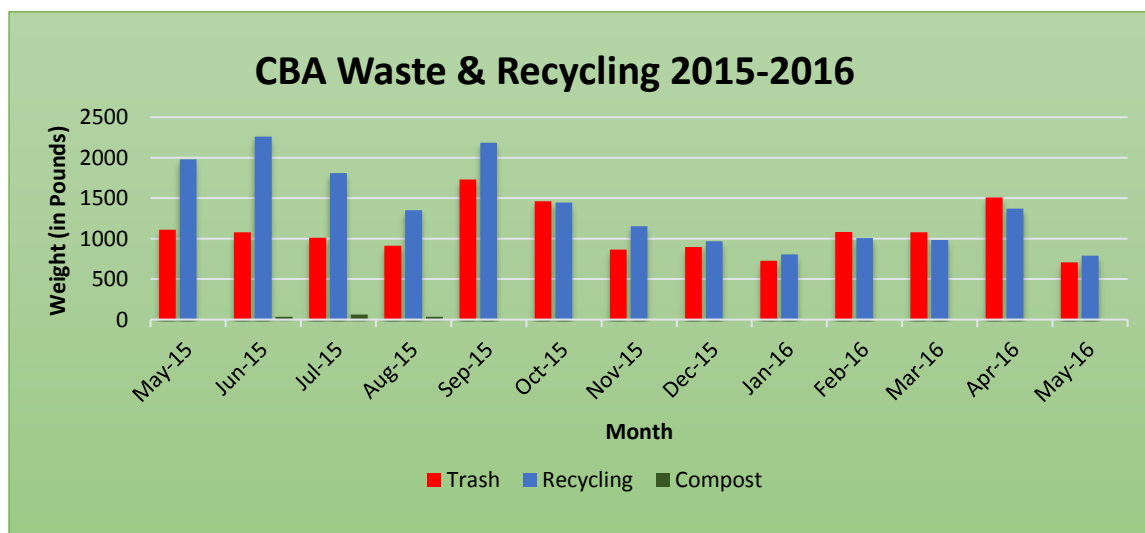


During Earth Week in April of 2015 and 2016, Waste Sorts were conducted—measuring the amount of contamination in trash and recycling. Compostable materials (organics) were sorted out of the trash and recycling. Items that should be trash but were found in the recycling bins were sorted out. Items that could have been recycled but were found in the trash bin were sorted out. The compostable materials found in the trash made up more than 36% of the trash in 2015 and 23% of the trash in 2016. While compostable materials found in the recycling only made up 1% in 2015 and none in 2016. Although Waste Sorts didn't occur during the time composting bins were available, the percentage of organics composted during the summer compared to the amount of organics found in the Waste Sorts indicate that more than likely, most organics were still being thrown away in the trash or recycling even with a composting bin available. The Waste Sorts show that there is more than enough organics available in trash and recycling, suggesting that composting may be necessary.

For the summer of 2016, the CBA Green Team and Orientation have reintroduced these compost bins in Mammel Hall. Orientation is working with Adam Sagart Composting to pick up the material from the compost bins once a week on Friday/Saturday. Total composting costs are \$1400 for the entire summer program. According to Adam Sagart, the total price per month would be reduced if services became ongoing.

If CBA decides to continue composting past the summer months, then the CBA Green Team must be intentional about educating students/faculty/staff about the compost bins and what goes into them. Heavy promotion to engage students/faculty/staff to compost would have to be a priority for a successful composting program in Mammel Hall.

The following graph compares waste, recycling, and compost between May 2015 and May 2016. For the majority of the months, recycling surpasses trash. Indicating that more has been more recycled than trashed. However, paper towel bathroom trash for this time period was not collected and could misrepresent results. 14,157 lbs were waste and 18,110 lbs were recycling, and 130 lbs made up composting.

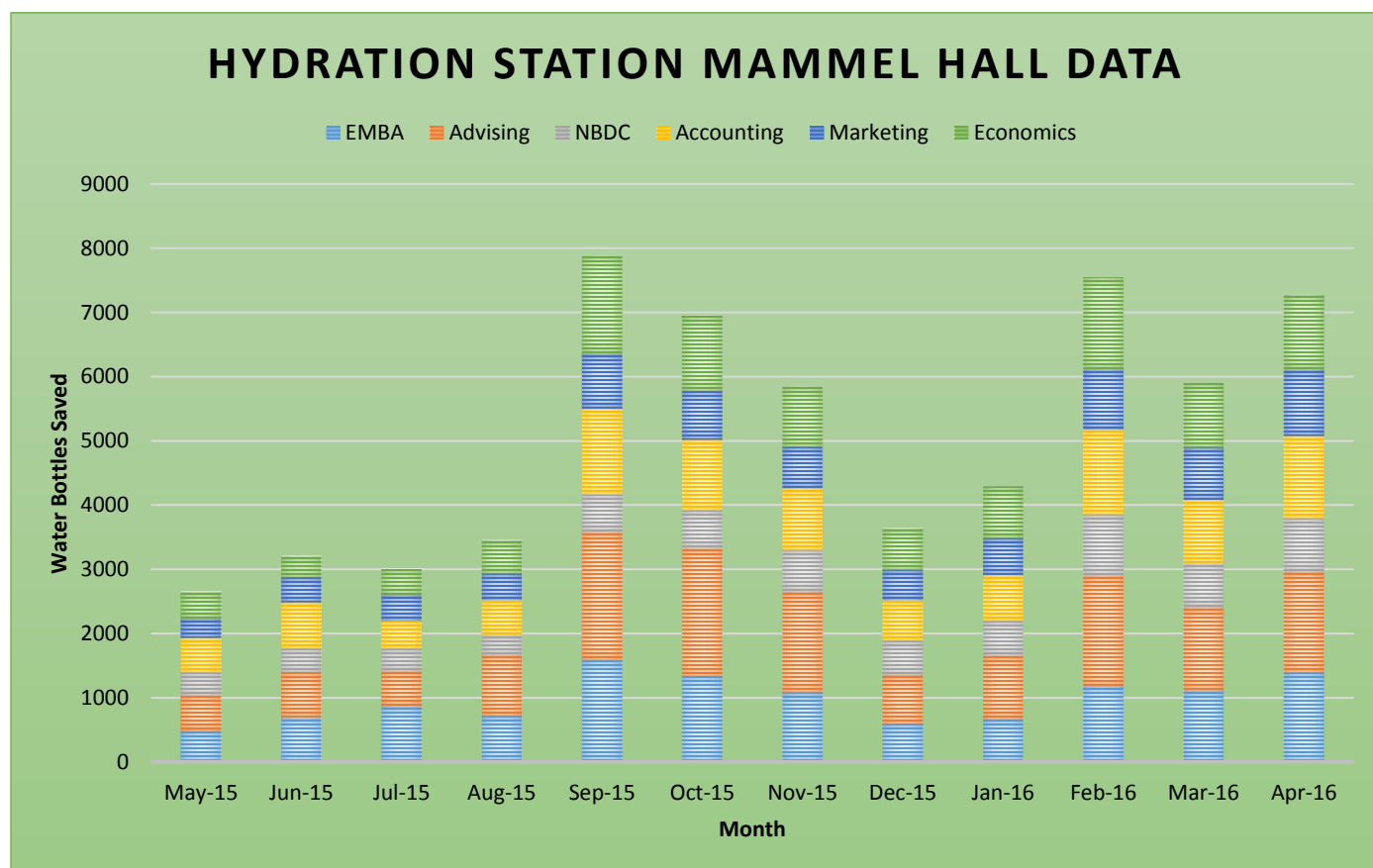




Hydration Station:

One way to reduce the use of plastic is to encourage people to use reusable water bottles, instead of purchasing plastic water bottles. Mammel Hall has six hydration stations (two on each floor) spread throughout the building. The data shows that the hydration stations used the most are those where the majority of students spend their time (Advising, EMBA, Accounting, and Economics). The four locations have more student seating nearby, whereas the NBDC and Marketing hydration stations are more tucked away in the building, closer to the staff/faculty offices.

When fall and spring classes are in session, there is a spike of usage. During the summer months and during the winter break, there is less usage. From May 2015 to April 2016, use of the hydration stations saved 58,330 water bottles from being used. This provides savings of 6,358 lbs of CO₂e, the equivalent of driving an average passenger vehicle 6,926 miles.





Mammel Hall Bathrooms:

- **Monthly Messages:** CBA's Mammel Hall is a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Certified Building. Mammel Hall has several key LEED features, such as its water use reduction, optimized energy performance, storm water management, and energy efficient ventilation—just to name a few.

Most people are unfamiliar with what LEED is and how a building achieves this higher standard. In an effort to raise awareness of CBA's dedication to sustainability, the CBA Green Team starting posting messages in all the bathrooms of Mammel Hall. These messages promote and encourage sustainability among Mammel Hall occupants by providing tips. The following shows all of the monthly messages since May 2015:

May 2015:



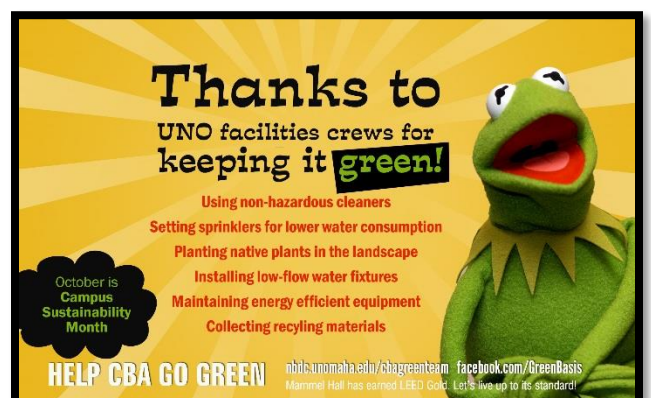
June 2015:



July 2015:



August 2015:





November 2015:



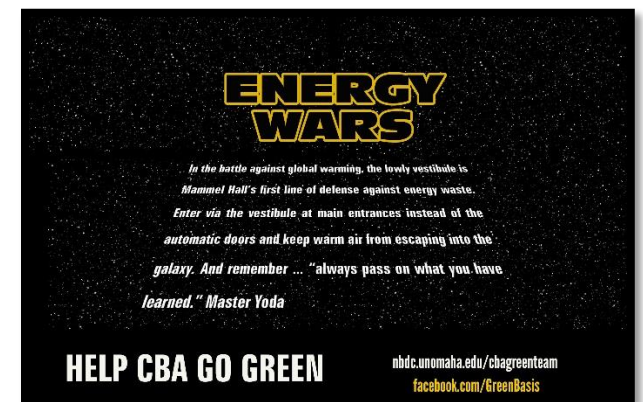
December 2015:



January 2016:



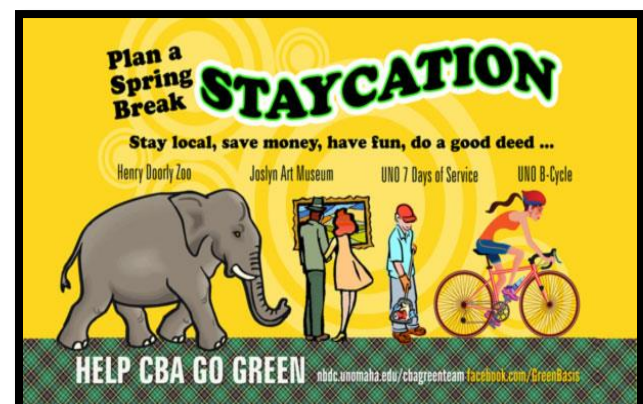
February 2016:



March 2016:



March 2016: Spring Break





April 2016:



• Paper Towel Dispensers:

Recently Mammel Hall introduced new paper towel dispensers in all bathroom locations. Previous towel dispensers were manual and people could pull as much paper towel as they wanted quickly. The new dispensers are battery-powered and produce a specific amount of paper towel per use. Facilities believes that people will just use one unit of paper towel from the new dispenser, and it will reduce our usage of towels. Prior to the installment, Edward Johnson shared that paper towel usage in Mammel Hall was 156 cases per year (12 rolls per case). With the new towel dispensers, we have cut paper towel usage in half.

Styrofoam at CBA:

In an effort to remove Styrofoam (which takes approximately 50 years to decompose), Dean Pol has requested that all catered events located in Mammel Hall are restricted from using Styrofoam. The CBA Green Team has followed up several time with multiple vendors in regards to the Styrofoam. If there is any Styrofoam at a catered event at UNO, please notify the CBA Green Team.

Stedman's Café:

In January 2016, Stedman's Café opened in Mammel Hall. Since its opening, several efforts were introduced to support CBA's sustainability goals. In order to prevent drinking cup waste, Stedman's currently takes 10 cents off the purchase for use of reusable mug/container for beverages. It uses recyclable clamshells for take-out food containers. It has switched to electronic systems—using an online task and duty list for employees that is focused on minimizing everyday products and duties.

For the upcoming academic year, Stedman's plans on making some modifications in its current system. This includes:

- Possibly taking \$1.00 off coffee for bringing your own mug.



- Introducing (new) sustainable coffee cups in the fall semester.
- Looking to reduce waste by focusing on best-selling products.
- Switching silverware and all paper products to sustainable.

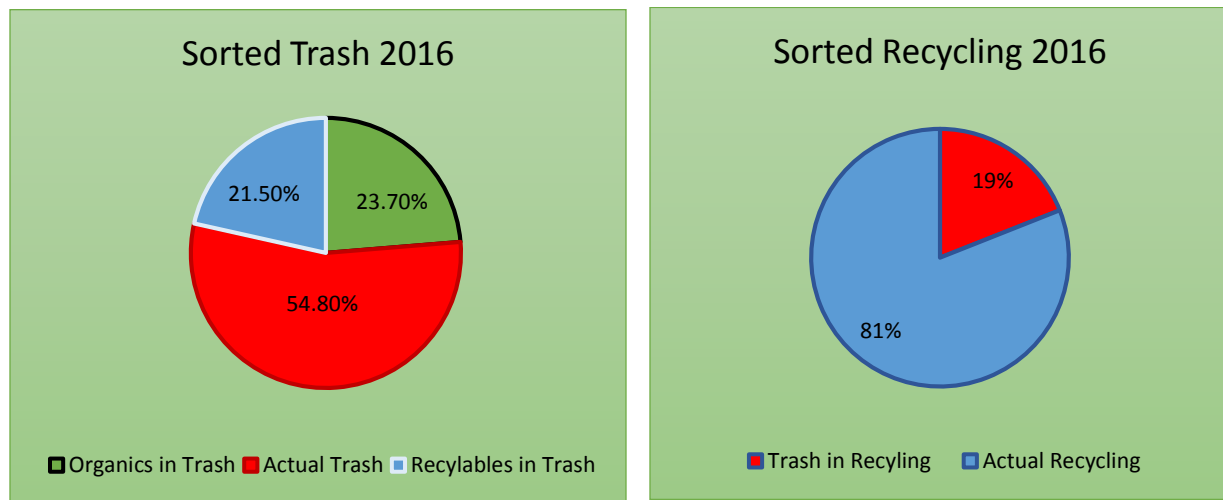
Earth Week 2016:

• Monday, April 18: Waste Sort 10:00-11:00am

Purpose: To better understand the amount of recyclable materials improperly tossed into the trash and the amount of trash improperly tossed into the recycling, the Green Team conducted a waste sort during Earth Week on April 18, 2016.

Two bags of waste and two bags of recycling were collected from the first floor hallway by the custodians the morning of the waste sort. Each bag was weighed prior to the sort. The total trash was 14.15 lbs. and the total recycling was 6.55 lbs.

Participants sorted through the bags in search of contamination (recycling in trash/trash in recycling). This year, 21.5% of the trash was recyclable and 23.7% of the trash was compostable materials. In the recycling, 19% of it was trash contamination. The two pie charts show how it breaks down:



The charts below show a comparison of contamination found in the trash and in the recycling between all the waste sorts conducted by the CBA Green Team over the past few years.

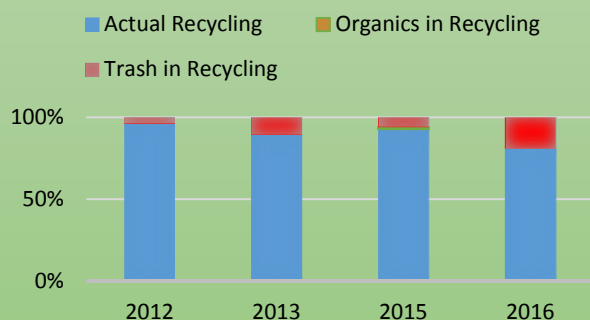
Observations made from this year's waste sort include:

- Plastic bottles were found in the trash bins with liquids inside. The plastic could be recycled and the liquid is not a contamination issue for the recycling facility. The liquid represents an opportunity for organics composting and potentially provides an over-estimation of the amount of material currently being trashed at Mammel Hall.

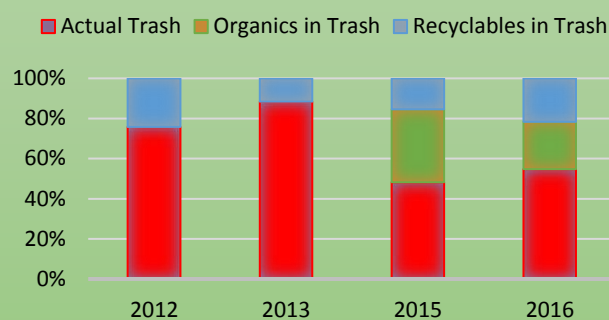


- Paper was found in the trash rather than the recycling bins.
- Cardboard hand protectors from coffee cups as well as paper and recyclable plastic cups were found in the trash. While not all plastic cups are recyclable (6 is a common one that is not recyclable but numbers 1, 2, 3, and 5 are recyclable).
- Trash is emptied even if a small amount of trash is in the bag rather than waiting for it to be more full, which wastes bags.
- Paper towels were thrown into recycling bins rather than trash bin.
- Sandwich clamshell containers from Stedman's Café are recyclable but they were thrown in the trash rather than recycling.

CONTAMINATION IN RECYCLING



CONTIMINATION IN TRASH



• Tuesday, April 19: Clothing Swap

Purpose: To reduce throwing away clothing no longer worn, but still in good condition, and exchange it for different clothing that will be worn.

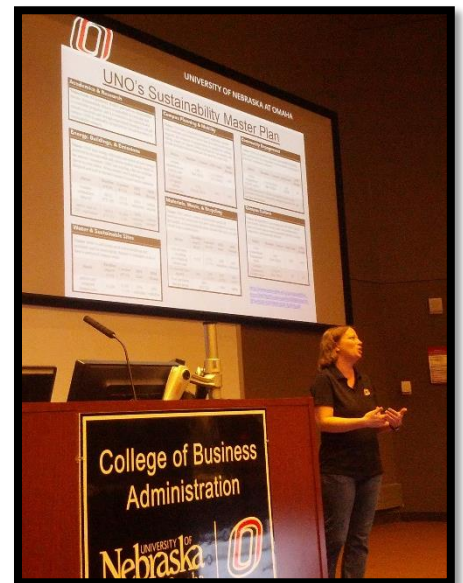
On Tuesday, April 19, the CBA Green Team along with some CBA staff members hosted a clothing swap in the atrium of Mammel Hall. The clothing was donated by students and staff prior to the event. The clothing was arranged on tables based on size and available to any student or staff member to take for free. After the event, the clothing was donated to Hand Me Ups. Nearly 20 bags of clothing consisting of some youth, all women's sizes, men's, and accessories, were donated.



● **Wednesday, April 20: Sustainability Presentation**

Promoting sustainability and empowering students to participate in sustainable efforts is one of the key drivers for the CBA Green Team. Each action taken is to protect natural resources and ensure that future generations will have enough resources to use. On Wednesday, April 20, the CBA Green team presented over sustainability efforts on campus and the impact each individual has on the environment. The focus of the presentation was to show how effortless it is for one to actively participate and make sustainable decisions. The presenters highlighted on the several changes the university has undergone in the past couple years to lean more towards sustainability. Some of these changes include:

- Campus housing advancements: changing lights to LED to save energy used, switching shower faucet heads to cut back on water waste, and adding toilet valves to monitor water waste.
- The establishment of a sustainability committee to the Residence Hall Association (RHA).
- Development of new organizations and employment of Sustainability Coordinator, Sarah Burke.
- Service Learning Projects conducted by the Center for Urban Sustainability.



● **Thursday, April 21: Water Taste Test**

To test whether or not bottled water is preferred over filtered/tap water CBA hosted a Water Taste Test.

According to the U.S. Renewable Energy Association, 2,500,000 plastic bottles are used and disposed of in the U.S. every hour. The average number of years it takes a plastic bottle to decompose is approximately 450 years. With that long time period, it's essential to reduce the use of water bottles. In order to prove that bottled water isn't preferred over filtered and tap water, the CBA Green Team hosted a water taste test during Earth Week.



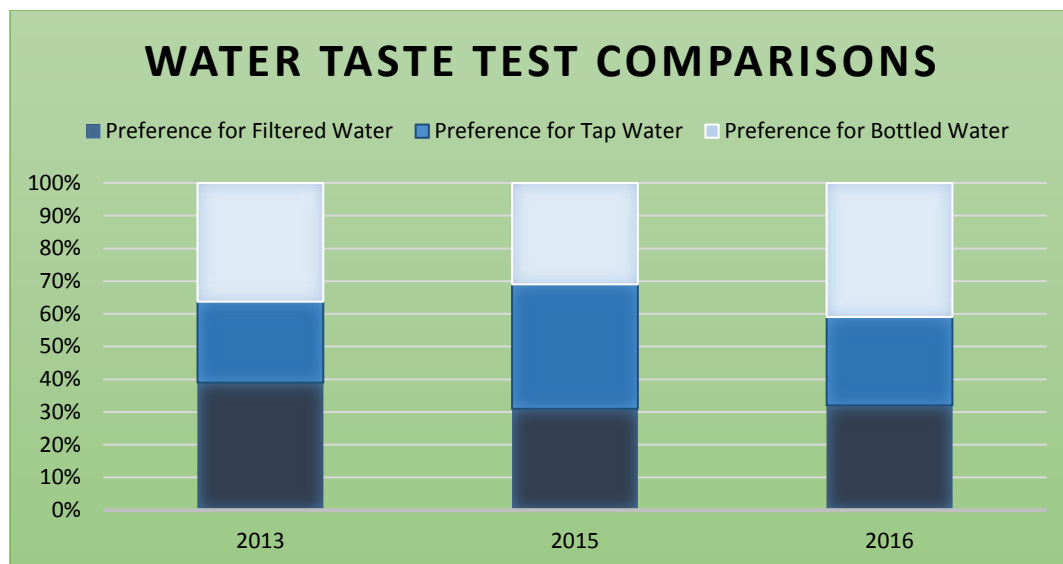
Participants were each given three Dixie cups, each with one of the following types of water:

- A) Tap Water from Mammel Hall second floor NBDC office
- B) Filtered water from hydration station at NBDC office
- C) Bottled Water (Aquafina) from Stedman's Café in Mammel Hall



Each participant sampled the water (unaware of where the water came from) and were asked to give the letter (A, B, or C) that represented that “best” tasting water to them.

The following data shows the results received this year and in the previous two water tests.



As the data shows, about 60% or more people each year prefer water that is either filtered or tap over bottled water.

Water Taste Test participants were given a free reusable water bottle once they completed the water taste test. Water bottles were purchased through sponsorship from UNO College of Business and MUD Omaha. Brochures from Healthy Kids Alliance sharing information about LEAD and healthy homes were available for anyone to take as well as the 2015 Water Quality report from MUD Omaha. Participants were encouraged to use the water bottle at the Mammel Hall hydration station.

